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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
SUBSIDIARY BODIES: ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the
Council, Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh), as a
result of informal consultations

Programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable
Development for the period 1998-2002 and future
methods of work of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council.

1. Approves the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002, as recommended by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session and annexed to the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21;
2. Invites the Commission to draw up the provisional agendas of its future sessions in accordance with that programme of work with no prejudice to rules 5 to 9 of the rules of procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council;
3. Approves the following provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Commission:
 1. Election of officers
 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
 3. Sectoral theme: Strategic approaches to freshwater management

4. Cross-sectoral theme: Transfer of technology/capacity-building/education/science/awareness raising
5. Economic sector/major group: Industry
6. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (those chapters of the Programme of Action which were not covered in the in-depth review carried out by the fourth session of the Commission)
7. Other matters
8. Provisional agenda of the seventh session
9. Adoption of the report.

4. Invites the Commission to adjust its future methods of work in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 132 and 133 of the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

5. Decides that in the period 1998-2002 the Commission shall continue the practice of establishing, subject to the approval by the Council, up to two ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working groups in a given year with a view to assisting the Commission in the preparations for its forthcoming regular sessions;

6. Decides also that the issues to be addressed by such inter-sessional working groups should be, as a rule, decided by the Commission in the context of consideration of the provisional agendas of its forthcoming sessions and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 133 (f) of the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

7. Decides further that, on an exceptional basis, the provisional agenda of 1998 meetings of the ad hoc inter-sessional working group or groups of the Commission will be recommended by the Bureau of the Commission in consultation with Member States;

8. Decides on the following future arrangements for the election of the bureau of the Commission in order to implement the provisions of paragraph 136 of the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21:

(a) The Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, will hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new chairman and other members of the bureau in accordance with rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Council;

(b) In this context, the provisions of paragraph (d) of its decision 1993/207 of 12 February 1993 would apply only to the substantive part of the Commission's sessions;

(c) The terms of office of the members of the Commission shall begin immediately after the conclusion of work of the regular session held after 1 January, following their election by the Council (at its resumed organizational session of the previous year) to the membership of the Commission, and shall end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January following the election of the States that are to succeed them as members of the Commission (unless they are re-elected);

(d) The Council will decide on specific modalities of the transitional period from the current arrangements to those outlined above at its resumed substantive session of 1997.